The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news concerning and interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1740 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1944 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 34, NO. 33

FACING the FACTS
With PHILIP PEARL

On Aug. 1 we sent a telegram to James C. Hagerty, executive assistant to Governor Dewey, requesting a Labor Day message from the Governor for publication in the AFL Weekly News Service and in the 900 labor papers which it serves free of charge.

In making this request we were not asking a favor; we were offering one. Each year at or about this time, the President of the United States makes available advance copies of his Labor Day message for release in Labor Day editions. In conformity with the AFL's non-partisan political policy, we thought it would be a good idea to give Governor Dewey an even break with President Roosevelt and run their messages side by side.

Today we received a reply from the Governor's executive assistant. It said:

"Due to the pressure under which Governor Dewey is working at the present time, it is just impossible for him to meet the requests that I've receives for specially written messages and I am sorry to say it will not be possible for him to write one at this time."

All we can say in reply—and we say it in the same spirit in which Mr. Hagerty's letter was written—is "Thank you, Governor."

But we may be permitted to wonder. And we do wonder how much time Mr. Dewey will be able to spare for labor if and when he is elected President since he finds himself too busy even as Governor to perform the courtesy of issuing a Labor Day message.

What's Happening to the G.O.P.?

And we wonder, furthermore, whether Mr. Hagerty considers us naive enough to believe that Governor Dewey wrote his own message. And we continue to wonder what is keeping the Governor's talented staff so busy these days.

While we are on the subject, let us begin to wonder what is happening to the Republican Party and its Presidential candidate. Governor Dewey found time recently to journey to St. Louis for a conference with a large number of other Republican Governors to plan strategy and map policies for the coming political campaign.

Out of this confab, lasting two or more days, came the decision to make the Republican Party the champion of States' rights.

Ever since the days of slavery, States' rights has been the cover for opposition to progress in America. It is a meritorious, dedicated and hypocritical device for the perpetuation of ugly prejudices for the division of our nation into forty-eight battle areas, for the protection of do-nothingism.

Traditionally, the Republican Party has fought States' rights and favored the creation of a strong central government, dealing with national problems in a national way. The fact that the New Republican Party has come up with nothing better to offer the American people now than a return to States' rights must be discouraging to the Party's supporters.

Does the Republican plan to solve the nation's post-war problems on a basis of States' rights? Does it plan to meet the big national and international issues resulting from the end of this war by forty-eight separate doors? Does it plan to have forty-eight varying labor relations laws, forty-eight different social security acts, forty-eight varieties of wage and hour regulations?

A Disillusioning Event

Lest these candid observations be considered a departure from the AFL's non-partisan political policy, let us remind our readers that an integral part of that policy is to throw the spotlight on what each party has to offer so that the membership can intelligently judge between friends and enemies.

If we are misjudging the policy and the attitude of the Republican Party we will be only too glad to stand corrected whenever any accredited spokesman for that party chooses to give us the facts.

In the absence to date of such a statement from Governor Dewey or his lieutenants, we must judge by events. One such event, of recent occurrence, has been sadly disillusioning.

Our good friends on "Labor", weekly publication of the railroad workers, which maintains a strictly non-partisan political policy, warned the Republican Party some two weeks ago that if it permitted the Reactionary Southern Democrats in blind opposition to post-war legislation covering human needs, such as the Murray-Kilgore-Truman Bill, it would be committing political suicide.

Well, the Republicans have gone and done it. According to press dispatches, only three Republicans in the Senate voted for the bill in the showdown came, while twenty-six Republicans lined up against it. Together with twenty-three Democratic Senators, mostly from the South, they were able to defeat the Murray-Kilgore-Truman Bill and send it to the shelf for wholly inadequate George Bill, which attempts to deal with a grave national problem on a States' Rights basis.

Opponents of the Murray-Kilgore-Truman Bill tried to make it appear that the measure was the brain-child of the CIO Political Action Committee. They definitely were not. The bill was the product of the labor unions consistently and urgently advocated its passage. Such devious tactics will not hoodwink the seven million members of the AFL.

AFL Renews Fight For Post-War Bill In House, After Its Defeat In Senate

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor prepared to renew in the House of Representatives its fight for the prompt enactment of an effective post-war reconversion law, including, therefore, a national system of unemployment compensation for disemployed war workers and returning soldiers.

Defeat of the Murray-Kilgore-Truman bill in the Senate merely spurred organized labor into making greater efforts then before for the adoption of this all-important legislation.

A bill similar to the Murray-Kilgore-Truman measure is being sponsored in the House by Rep. Randolph Celler and its terms will be aggressively supported by the Federation.

Unfortunately, the Celler Bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee while another group, the House Ways and Means Committee is expected to have jurisdiction of the post-war bill adopted by the Senate—known as the George Bill.

The George Bill is considered wholly inadequate by the American Federation of Labor because it fails to set up a national system of unemployment compensation with uniform benefits and attempts to deal with post-war unemployment on a State-by-State basis.

A combination of reactionary Southern Democrats with a large majority of Republican Senators succeeded in killing off the Murray-Kilgore-Truman Bill and putting across the George Bill.

Warnings by organized labor that confusion and bungling would be caused unless effective legislation were adopted to meet the post-war unemployment problem went unheeded.

Under the George Bill states which have weekly unemployment benefits as low as $8 a week would be permitted to continue their systems in effect.

How a worker's family could get along on such amounts until new peace-time jobs are created was a question that went unanswered.

How sufficient purchasing power could be mustered to spur increased post-war production while millions of families are condemned to such slow starvation also was left up in the air.

AFL Backs Bill For Safe Disposal Of Surplus Government Property

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor endorsed the Johnson-Lister Bill providing for the orderly disposal of surplus Government property during the post-war period and preventing any kind of sale of such supplies as would dislocate established business and impair employment opportunities.

However, the Federation urged that the bill be amended to obtain administration of the disposal program by a board made up of public, labor, industry and farm representatives, instead of a single administrator.

All of these groups have vital interests at stake in the way surplus Government property is released and therefore should have a voice in the administration of the program, the AFL pointed out.

In a statement sent to the Senate Military Affairs Sub-committee which is considering the proposed legislation, AFL President William Green said:

"It is obvious that, with a possibility that billions of dollars worth of governmental plant facilities, equipment and products will remain undisposed of at the end of the war, some means must be provided, through the government, to avoid the dumping or disposal of these properties. Such disposal must, of course, seek to obtain the highest possible return for the government, the most effective use of plant facilities, and the advancement of our economy generally, but must avoid dislocations of established businesses and impairment of employment opportunities.

"It must be borne in mind that distribution of surplus through the granting of the use of governmental plant facilities to private enterprise can and should be done only with the exercise of great care that the interests of the public at large be afforded priority over the interests of any worker, in his employment opportunities; the farmer, in making available to him agricultural implements, together with an adequate market for his produce; and finally the public, in that the entire economic economy is maintained at a level which permits full production and use of plant facilities and full employment opportunities, together with the highest possible return to the government for the disposed of property. It is important, then, that extreme care and caution be utilized in the disposition of surplus goods and plant facilities, and that in such disposition the interests of those directly affected be consulted."

Typos Now Affiliated With AFL

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green announced that the International Typographical Union has completed the process of re-affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

The membership of the I.T.U. in a referendum vote taken May 17 decided by a substantial majority to rejoin the Federation. The officers of the union met in Aurora, Ill., on July 29 and formally voted for the step, the month of August, entitling the union to representation at the November convention of the AFL.

"We welcome the membership of the International Typographical Union into affiliation with the American Federation of Labor," Mr. Green said in a message to the State Federations of Labor and city central labor unions. "We will gladly cooperate with them, assist them and help them in every way possible. In like manner, I am sure State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies will extend a hearty welcome to the local unions of the International Typographical Union which make application for affiliation with them."

"Let's See It Through"

By JAMES FORRESTAL, *Secretary of the Navy*

On Labor Day a year ago, I stated that the outcome of the war would depend in large measure on the loyal efforts of the men and women of the production line.

Good news from every battle front, today, therefore, is a tribute to the achievement of American labor over the past year.

Carrier support, amphibious operations, new uses of combat demands special materials. Each mile we advance multiplies the requirements of supply, transport, and communication. Already our expenditures in ammunition have been incalculable. For example, in support of landing operations the Navy already has fired at enemy shore defenses alone about 280 times the amount used to win the Spanish-American War.

Great campaigns still lie ahead. Not only must the flow of supplies be maintained, but we must keep our production flexible to meet the ever-shifting demands of the armed forces. Changes are blasted upon us daily.

Now is the time to emulate the spirit of the young Navy flier on combat patrol who was recently offered a chance to return home for a well-deserved rest. "I'll take it," he said, "after the opportunity, saying, 'As long as there is a war on I want to see it through.'"

Workers Prepare Knockout Blow

By WILLIAM H. DAVIS,
Chairman, National War Labor Board

On the eve of victory, the American worker is faced with a grave responsibility to see that there is no slackening in the nation's productive effort.

Military authorities have called for greater increase in heavy production, in trucks, ammunition, the giant B-29 bombers, and certain types of shipping. It is imperative that we meet these needs.

Labor and management in America already have performed prodigious tasks in this war. They have met the challenge set to the American way of life—by rolling up their sleeves and turning out a job that amazed both our allies and our enemies.

No man could be a pessimist in the face of America's productive record. But the danger is ever present that we could happen to our war effort at this critical time would be for the nation—or any part of it—to become too optimistic.

This is the last moment to slow down in your efforts. It is the moment for the knockout blow.

So I call upon every worker, and every other American, to band his or her efforts in more and more solidary needs. With victory within our grasp, we must not relax.

LABOR BUILDS FLEET GREATEST IN WORLD

By REAR ADM. E. L. COCHRANE, U.S.N.,
Chief of Bureau of Ships

The men and women of American industry have built and equipped the largest and most powerful Navy the world has ever known. As our fleet prepares the way for attacks on Berlin and Tokyo, the workers, engineers and industrial workers must be justly proud of their participation in the victories that carry our armed forces to the enemy's door.

Until the final victory is won, every employed American must continue to maintain the superiority of our arms over those of the enemy.

This is the last moment to slow down in your efforts. It is the moment for the knockout blow.

So I call upon every worker, and every other American, to band his or her efforts in more and more solidary needs. With victory within our grasp, we must not relax.

Green Appeals For Boost In Key Munitions Output

Workers Left Out Of Picture

(Extracts from Labor's Monthly Survey)

Rapid Allied advance in Europe has brought new needs for weapons and equipment. Munitions production in our nation is up to schedule. But now the schedule for some items must be stepped up to meet these new needs. This is what military spokesmen mean when they say that production is lagging behind the demands of the front; government war agencies are taking immediate steps to make up this lag.

They do not mean that labor or management is to blame. General Clay said on July 11: "Hear demands for munitions and supplies since the beginning of the war have been met."

These new needs place heavy responsibility on all war workers. The next three months of the war are decisive. Failure of supplies to the front could be disastrous. The American Federation of Labor calls on all war workers to: Stay at your posts and get out production, while your unions see that the necessary laws are passed to protect you when the war comes.

"Uncle Sam" has created a difficult problem for war workers. The U. S. Government has in effect said to American workers holding war contracts: "We will take care of you when your contracts are terminated; we will help you to a speedy reconversion to peacetime work." This was provided in the Murray Bill, passed by Congress in June, and signed by the President on July 1, 1944, and in the President's Executive Order setting up the Surplus War Property Administration. These laws provide for quick payment to companies of money owed by the government when their contracts are ended, for loans to help them tide over delays, and for quick removal of government property left in their plants or on their premises.

The government has said to servicemen: "We will take care of you when your magnificent job of winning this war is done." This was provided in the Veterans' Bill or "GI Bill of Rights," passed by Congress in June and signed by the President on June 22, and in the President's Executive Order setting up the Retraining and Reemployment Administration and his appointment of Brigadier General Frank T. Hines as head of this administration. These laws, together with previous veterans' laws, provide that honorably discharged servicemen will have $200 mustering out pay, hospital care for the rest of their lives, help in finding jobs, unemployment benefit of $20 a week for a full year if unemployed, payment for education or retraining up to $500 a year, and loans up to $2,000 for homes, farms or business.

But the workers our "Uncle Sam" has thus far done nothing. The government has said in effect to war workers: "When war work is cut back and you are left without job or income, you must take care of yourselves. Your only hope will be to find a job in civilian, war-time industry or in competing for those few jobs. Your only chance will be to get there first." By failing to pass the Kilgore Bill, "Uncle Sam" has left war workers in the plight.

The fact that, in spite of "Uncle Sam's" neglect of them, war workers have stayed on the job and produced more and more per hour of work is outstanding evidence that they put loyalty to their country above everything else. Production per worker in the munitions industries has increased 42% from January, 1943 to May 1944, and this amazing increase has continued month by month to date. Compared to the millions of war workers at their posts, very few have left to get safe peacetime jobs. These war workers are making, of their own free will, greater sacrifice than Uncle Sam is asking of any other group on the home front.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Evidence Friendlier Attitude Toward Labor

Washington, D. C.—Increasing evidence of friendliness and willingness to cooperate with organized labor is being manifested by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, following the drafting of an improved program for legislation and the labor movement on policies to help servicemen find jobs during the post-war period.

First, Commander-in-Chief Carl J. Schoeninger, of the VFW, invited AFL President William Green to address the 1943 National Encampment of the VFW in Chicago on Aug. 23, an invitation which was readily accepted.

In addition, publications of the VFW are now praising the efforts of organized labor and defending them against anti-union propagandists who have been attacking them. The Wisconsin Veteran, organ for the VFW in that State, for example, has refuted charges that American workers have let the soldiers down. It says:

"There is no group of citizens in the United States more determined to bring about the crushing of Fascism, Nazi-ism and the tyrannical government of Japan than labor.

"Union labor gave up for the duration its greatest economic weapon, the strike—and has kept its no-strike pledge better than 99½ per cent.

"Labor has sent its members and its kin into the armed forces to man the front lines. Labor has smashed every known record in world's history on the production front. More than 85 per cent of the equipment used by our Army are made by union labor."

The article also cited the support given by labor to the Community War Chests, war bond drives, Red Cross blood banks" and many other war activities.

"In other ways, too, organized labor has proved that those in the service mean," the publication declared. "It stood four-square for a complete and simple soldier vote law that would bring those in the service the ballot this fall.

"It has been quick to bend to hold down prices and prevent inflation. It has strenuously fought for a real post-war program which would mean a job for every service man on his return."

Labor Backs "Go To School" Drive

Washington, D. C.—To combat a nation-wide decline in high school enrollment, the U. S. Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, and the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, with the endorsement of the War Manpower Commission, has launched a national go-to-school drive.

With the aim of "enrolling and keeping in school every boy and girl of high school age in school until they complete their courses, either full time or in well-planned school and work programs," these government agencies have invited all community groups —including business, employers, labor organizations, civic leaders, welfare agencies, religious groups, schools and youth itself—to join in supporting local go-to-school drives.

President William Green promptly endorsed the drive and asked all central bodies to cooperate.

Statistics of high school enrollment during the present school year show a large and ever growing decline in this organized effort. Since 1940-41, the peak attendance year in the history of high schools, there has been a sharp enrollment drop of 1,000,000 students. In 1943-44, almost 1,250,000 students were on our high schools' rolls. About 300,000 were graduated from 12th grade classes by 1943-45, and over 400,000 more by the time school opened in the fall of 1944. In these years, enrollment gains made by high schools since 1934 were wiped out. Our high schools are now back to the level they were in 1920, as they did 10 years ago.

Simultaneous with the decline in high school enrollment has been a surge in the number of children of high school age at work. In October, 1943, when school was already in session, approximately 2,750,000 boys and girls 14 to 17 years old were working full or part time. That figure represents three times as many children at work as were working when the decennial census was taken in March, 1940.

In July, 1945, about 3,000,000, or more than half, of the 14 through 17-year-olds listed Jobs. Virtually all the number of school-age children at work has increased over 1943, the agencies said.

In labor shortage areas, where young workers will have to be employed, employers and school officials are urged to plan school and work schedules so that young people can continue their schooling on a part-time basis. Standards for part-time employment, set up in cooperation by the War Manpower Commission, the Children's Bureau and the Office of Education and may be obtained by writing to any of these offices. These standards, listed Jobs, "Full-time work by the War Department, Navy Department and United States Maritime Commission.

WAR EFFORT SUCCESS CREDITED TO LABOR

By REAR ADM. G. F. HUSSEY, JR., U.S.N.,
Chief of Bureau of Ordnance

Since the inception of this war, American labor has been charged with the responsibility of applying its full productive powers to furnish the material necessary for victory. The success of our Armed Forces to date reflect the degree to which labor has discharged this obligation.

We know that American labor understands the tremendous task yet to be accomplished and will let nothing interfere with its great contribution to the defeat of our enemies.

Tells AFL Workers Army Needs Increased Supplies To Make Victory Certain

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed to all unions and members of the American Federation of Labor to boost production of vital war materials needed by the armed forces.

He revealed that "responsible representatives" of the Army and Navy had stressed, in conversations with him, the need for increased output of heavy artillery, ammunition, heavy guns, bombs, radar equipment, tanks, construction equipment, tires, tentage fabric and penicillin.

In a circular letter to all affiliates, Mr. Green declared:

"We cannot and must not fail to supply our troops fighting so gloriously, with all the materials and supplies they need in order to clinch the victory which now seems near at hand.

"The daily reports we receive from the fighting fronts bear out that the Nazis and Japs are being driven back, defeated and demoralized. We are pleased beyond measure over the successes of our armed forces but the final blow must be delivered. Our enemies must be crushed. They must be defeated decisively.

"As our armed forces fight in order to reach this objective, the soldiers of production must press, without fail or let-up, the war materials and war supplies the Army needs right now in this critical period. Our workers can produce more war materials and supplies if they are needed. They have repeatedly, over and over again, shown their ability to do so.

"In my opinion all that is needed in order to increase production is to acquaint the workers with the vital needs of the Army and Navy. In response to the appeal of the representatives of the Army, Navy and the Government for increased production of vital war materials, we call upon all members of the Army of production to draw upon their own personal resources, reserves in skill, the capacity to produce war materials and war supplies in increasing volume.

"The workers of America make brighter the glorious record they have made by demonstrating to the world their ability to produce war materials in increasing volume in this period in the history of the war when a vital and decisive blow is being inflicted upon our enemies."

AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETS IN CHICAGO AUG. 21

Chicago. — The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor opens an important session here at the Drake Hotel on Aug. 21.

The Council will consider all other matters of a specific nature concerning the war and will give its earnest attention to plans and programs designed to promote full employment and national prosperity during the post-war period.

This will be the last regular meeting of the Executive Council before the November elections and it is expected that the political policy of the Federation during the coming campaign will be carefully surveyed.

As its final job, the Council will draft its report to the next convention of the AFL, to be held beginning Nov. 20 in New Orleans. This report will cover all phases of national and international affairs of interest and concern to labor during the year.

Victory Is Hope Of Common Man

By ELMER DAVIS,
Director, Office of War Information

There are nations in this world in which the "common people" is used with contempt and condescension. Those nations today, forced to look to the people for national strength, are finding instead a weakness for which they themselves are responsible.

The United States was founded upon the principle of respect and opportunity for the common people. We have constantly sought to improve the lot of our common people. It is from the common people that the United States gains its strength. The courage and the devotion, the versatility and the ingenuity of the common people, in the foxholes and in the factories have made possible the victories which are proving short cuts to victory.

The fighting is not over yet. The production job is not completed, even though we know today that we shall win.

Instead of relaxing, we must rally all of our strength for a final, crushing blow. The nation is asking of its people that final effort so that we can end this war and return to our normal life of working and planning, so that the common people of tomorrow will be better off than the common people of today.

Adm. Woodward Salutes Labor

By REAR ADMIRAL C. H. WOODWARD, U.S.N.,
Chief, Industrial Incentive Division

On this Labor Day, the U. S. Navy salutes with extra pride the men and women of the production line.

That salute rings from battle fronts all over the world—from distant atolls, from night watches at sea, from beachheads flecked with tragic wreckage, from steel-borne fighters and bombers. Those fighting men who daily have cause to thank the devotion and skill of those working for them back on the home front.

Over this past year, American labor has written an epic of accomplishment into history. The outre facts of this achievement were sufficient to give the common people of the world a new conception of democracy at work.

But behind the astronomical figures, the gigantic sum total of this accomplishment lies a story of the individual. The courage and patience and quiet strength of every worker in every plant are the simple things which made up this miracle.

The Navy still has need of the full support of American labor. Victory may be said to be in sight on this Labor Day, but it is far from won. Berlin and Tokyo are more than mere miles away. Ahead of our armed forces lies a titanic ordeal of blood and sacrifice. It demands conquering of critical equipment of all kinds. Yet the men of the fleet who must face this ordeal see only that those on the home front are doing their jobs as well as they must possible, and stay on the job until victory has not only come into sight, but has been achieved. Such is the challenge labor faces today. The U. S. Navy is confident of what the answer will be.